



**Bottomland Hardwoods Learning Exchange:
Wildlife Forestry in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley**
November 6-7, 2019
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

FINAL AGENDA

Wednesday, November 6th

Meet at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Headquarters: 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, Joe L. Herring Room.

11:00am- 11:30am: Doors open, registration, coffee and light snacks

11:30am- 11:55am: Welcome and introductions among event organizers

Promoting Forest Stewardship from Coast to Coast *with Dr. Alexander Evans (Executive Director, Forest Stewards Guild)*

Forest Stewards Guild's Southeast Program and Bottomland Hardwoods *with Nick Biemiller (Southeast Regional Director, Forest Stewards Guild)*

11:55am- 12:15pm: Introduction to the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture *with Keith McKnight (Coordinator, Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture)*

Panel Session I: Silviculture and Forest Management

12:15pm- 12:40pm: Bottomland Hardwood Silviculture and Ecology *with Dr. Brian Roy Lockhart (Hardwood Ecologist)*

12:40pm- 1:05pm: Bottomland Forest Hydrology *with Dr. Sammy King (Leader, Louisiana Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and Adjunct Associate Professor, Louisiana State University)*

1:05pm- 1:30pm: Managing Bottomland Hardwoods for Wildlife Habitat, Operational Realities *with Jeff Denman (Owner and Consulting Forester, Denman CO.)*

1:30pm- 1:50pm: Moderated discussion and questions *with Nick Biemiller*

1:50pm- 2:05pm: Brief break

Panel Session II: Wildlife Biology and Habitat Management

- 2:05pm- 2:30pm: Bird and Bat Research with *Dr. Dan Twedt (Research Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Geological Survey)*
- 2:30pm- 2:55pm: Lower Mississippi Valley Desired Forest Conditions, USFWS Perspective with *Chuck Hunter (Chief, Division of Strategic Resource Management, Regional Refuge Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)*
- 2:55pm- 3:20pm: Wildlife Forestry in the Lower Mississippi Valley with *Duck Locascio (Forestry Program Manager, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries)*
- 3:20pm- 3:40pm: Moderate discussion and questions with *Dr. Alexander Evans (Executive Director, Forest Stewards Guild)*
- 3:40pm- 4:10pm: Summary of "Where We Are" with *Kenny Ribbeck (Administrator, Wildlife Division, LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries)*
- 4:10pm- 4:15pm: Concluding remarks and indoor session adjourned
- 6:30pm- 8:30pm: Dinner and networking social- dinner on us, cash bar available
Heads & Tails Seafood, 2070 Silverside Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808
Discussion among corporate sponsors

Thursday, November 7th

Meet at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center, 4728 Constitution Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

- 8:00am- 9:00am: Depart from the Crowne Plaza and head to Sherburne Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The Sherburne WMA is a joint land management venture of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that began in 1983. The area consists of 44,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forest managed to provide wildlife habitat and public recreation.
- 9:00am-9:15am: Introduction to Sherburne WMA
- 9:15am-10:30am: Variable retention harvest, in progress, prescribed to improve wildlife habitat, establish regeneration, and release advanced regeneration.
- 10:30am-11:30am: Shelterwood treatment harvested in 2004 to release advanced red oak regeneration and provide early successional wildlife habitat.
- 11:30am-12:30pm: Individual and group selection treatment harvested in 2004 to improve forest structure, improve stand quality, and release/establish regeneration.

- 12:30pm- 1:30pm: Lunch will be provided in the field. Restrooms will be available.
- 1:30pm- 3:30pm: Private forest landowner site visit near Melville, LA The property includes a 300 acre Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) tract thinned in 2017 utilizing various silvicultural techniques to improve wildlife habitat .
- 3:30pm- 4:00pm: Final remarks and wrap-up in the field
- 4:00pm- 4:45pm: Travel back to Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge, meeting adjourned!

Contact Information:

Nick Biemiller, Forest Stewards Guild
Southeast Regional Director
828-772-7992
nick@forestguild.org

Ron Seiss, The Nature Conservancy
Program Director, Lower MS River Program
601-850-3988
rseiss@tnc.org

Duck Locascio, LA Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Biologist Program Manager, LDWF Forestry Section
225-765-2347
dlocascio@wlf.la.gov

David Breithaupt, LA Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
NRCS Liaison/Farm Bill and Grants Program Manager
318-473-7761
dbreithaupt@wlf.la.gov